

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.933
R224

REA ROLL CALL

For REA Men and Women in Service

Vol. IX, No. 1

840 Boatmen's Bank Bldg., St. Louis 2, Mo.

July 15, 1945

PAULINE M. WHITLOCK
DIST-2

THE MIKULES BROTHERS FAR APART

In a recent issue, the Roll Call carried a letter from Lt. Comdr. Leonard Mikules writing from Okinawa. Now we have one from his brother, Capt. A. J. (Jack) Mikules, with the Ninth Army on the other side of the world stationed in Beckum, Germany where "the country is very fertile and beautiful, and the Germans unobstrusive."

Shortly, however, he expects to move to a location within the American Zone of Occupation where he anticipates meeting less defeated-minded Germans. Concerning his duties, he tells us, "I am what is called an administrative officer, whatever that is, but enjoying myself as nearly as anyone can who is not at home. We merely move into a town and tell the Burgermeister what we want----officers, quarters and cooks, and let him take care of getting and paying them. This life is indeed a relief after the arduous days of snow and cold and fighting in Belgium and France."

A FISH FRY AND OCTOPUS ROAST?

From a rest camp at an Advanced Submarine Base in the South Pacific, Lt. (j.g.) Ray Severine writes that as overseas stations go, his is excellent. "We have four concrete tennis courts and Bobby Riggs plays title matches here. Within a month he'll play for the Navy Davis cup with another world's champ and two national champs."

"Food is excellent----we get top loin steaks about as easily and often as you get 'one meat ball'. We have a beach steak fry about once a week. We have plenty of Budweiser, cake and ice-cream. We have langusta and crab hunts quite often. Langusta is similar to lobster only no pinchers. We get many little octopi on the reef, too, but we don't eat them! As an anti-climax to Capt. Warner Smith's octopus story, let me tell you about a 7-foot one we pulled out of our swimming pool recently. We have three such pools, all blasted out of the reef."

JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE, MOTHER

Officer Candidate Joe Bray is sweating out the war at Ann Arbor, Michigan. In a recent letter he moans, "Did I jump off the Hornet into the flamin' water? NO! Did I get frost-bitten fingers chasin' Japs outta the Aleutians? NO! Did I burn the soles of my feet on the hot san's of Africa? NO! Was I at Normandy? Sicily? Italy? Paree? NO! Was I bein' withered by the witherin' fire of Okinawa? NO! I didn't shoot no big guns, 'n no little ones, 'n no middle-sized ones, either. Sometimes I fires the light Underwood, and sometimes I jus' reads the papers to 'em. Why sub, the only thing hard about it is there's no cushions on the chairs. Eut that makes little difference, 'cause there's more standin' up than there is settin' down."

Because of all this, Joe pleads, "Fer criminy's sake, be my friend and keep my name offen yore pages, suh, especially 'til I either gits, or is got, from this place....And Roll Call, when I come saunterin' back to REA, warn them critters, I'll slug the firs' guy which says, 'Golly, Bray, seems like I been missin' yuh--has yuh been in the Army?' or which says, 'Where yuh been?' Well, I ain't been knittin', that's shore!" (We need a center fielder so bad, Joe, that nobody's going to ask any questions!)

PAY RAISE

By John W. Asher, Jr.,
Chief, Personnel Division

Legislation approved by President Truman on the last day of the last fiscal year, June 30, gives Government workers a raise in basic pay and effects other important changes.

The raise amounts to 20% of the first \$1200 of former annual salary, 10% of the next \$3400, and 5% of anything above \$4600. A CAF-5 job, for which the base pay was \$2000, has a new base of \$2320. A P-3 job, formerly based at \$3200, is now \$3640 for the starting step.

(Cont'd on page 3)

COLUMN WRITE!

Oldtimers in REA are interested in the recent announcement of Col. WESTRAY BATTLE BOYCE'S promotion to Director of the WAC. Many of them remember Westray, who was chief of REA's Insurance Section before she left in 1941.

CAPT. CLARENCE BUSH writes from the Philippines, where his 380th Bomber Group is currently stationed. "Our group was stationed in northern Australia for the first two years overseas, but the past few months we have been located in the Philippines. With the war in Europe over, we soon hope to end this one and come home to help build and operate more REA lines."

NAVY LIEUTENANT GEORGE E. MCPHEE, who is pilot of a huge transport plane carrying heavy materiel, was in the States recently from Hawaii. His wife, the former Betty Bohannon, joined him in San Francisco where he had a 6-day lay-over from an eastbound trip. Lt. McPhee has good prospects of an early transfer from the Pacific to Patuxent, Maryland, home base for Betty and the baby. George writes, "All the clouds have silver linings and happy days are within grasp come August."

NAVY CHIEF SPECIALIST SAM HOSS rebukes the Roll Call for using a former instead of his current address, saying "You have sent me back overseas." The Roll Call apologizes, feeling doubly contrite in this case since Chief Specialist Hoss has been one of the most faithful in supplying us with address changes.

E. G. (Gene) MEYER, CEM, has been stuck for over seven months somewhere in the South Pacific tending the "Silent Service." Relief seems to be in sight, however, for he says, "We are anticipating in the near future a brief trip to a port which has some attraction for liberty purposes----following which we'll probably shove off for another siege unless the Japs throw in the sponge before that."

SGT. SAMUEL SALTMAN has moved from one base to another. He is now in Assam. At the time he wrote he was on temporary duty in Calcutta and wrote from Red Cross headquarters. He does legal work in the Judge Advocate General's office. His letter states he is fine and dandy, but anxious to come home.

RUSSELL REHM, on military furlough from A&L as a Navy lieutenant, will be back at REA beginning August 14. He would be back sooner, but he can't transfer his leave.

We wish T/SGT. SIDNEY J. GUTMAN had written more from Camp Lee, Virginia where he is presently stationed. Then we would have had more to tell you about him. As it is we only know that, since his return from 26 months in the South Pacific, he has been reclassified as "limited service" and won't get any more overseas duty.

Between the Aleutian fog and his diet, LT. (j.g.) NAT LEVINSON is having quite a time. His group has a sun lamp and steam bath to offset the lack of sunshine. With the help of vitamin "D" and dicalcium phosphate tablets, he manages to keep body and soul together.

"The dicalcium phosphate is used to substitute for the calcium we don't get in our diet," he informs us. "The milk (?) we have is dehydrated and then put together again by means of a mechanical cow. It tastes like a bad compromise between wallpaper paste and casein glue. I've eaten so much dehydrated stuff, I'm feeling a little dried out myself. When the rains come, I swell up to my normal size again."

LT. FRANK L. CARLSON streamlines his method of communicating with the Roll Call. He simply takes an issue of Stars and Stripes having an item about his unit, underlines statements relative to it, adds a few lines along the margin, and presto! there you are! He's with the 296th Signal Depot Company that is slated to return by water to the States in the redeployment of thirteen thousand men from the ETO. The furloughs that will come in connection with this movement, Lt. Carlson tells us provides the constant topic of conversation and "morale is practically at the V-E day level."

LT. BRUCE WATKINS has been reassigned to a navy yard degaussing office in the Pacific. Over in Europe M/Sgt. Joe W. Davis is a member of a degassing unit. It's the "u" that makes the difference. Davis' training has taught him to minimize the effects of poison gas, while Watkins' work is beating magnetic mines.

T/5 FORREST R. GEORGE is being transferred, but didn't say where.

LT. LINN LUDLOW is another one of those on the brink of returning to REA, anxious and eager to get back to the program. Stationed first at Boca Raton in Florida, he lived at a swank club where the normal membership fee before the government took it over was a flat thousand bucks

(Cont'd on page 4)

THEY GAVE THEIR BLOOD

When the St. Louis Flood Donor Center closed late in May, 19 REA'ers had donated a gallon or more, and a few of them were near the 2-gallon mark.

The Gallon Club (or more) members are: Louise Bowles, R. S. Broderick, Wayne Christianson, Noni Crown Dodge, Ruth Fleming, Harold Hartogensis, Ruth Kerley, Arthur Koert, Eernard Krug, Dorothy Lisherness, Emanuel Noble, Irma M. Nold, Susan Norton, Madelyne Roussin, Viola Schmidt, Helena R. Sheldon, Eileen Stephens, Rosa Torbeck, Anice F. Totoro, and Malcolm Wehrung.

PAY RAISE

(Cont'd)

Automatic raises, which formerly came to employees with satisfactory efficiency ratings every 18 months up to and including CAF-10 and every 30 months for those in higher brackets, now come every 12 and 18 months. And they start at the beginning of the pay period following completion of the required length of service, instead of waiting until the start of the next quarter.

The hourly rate for overtime work will be time-and-a-half (up to \$2980 annual base pay) instead of the previous arrangement whereby the compensation was just about the same as for normal hours. Over \$2980 base pay, the overtime rate declines until it is less than regular time at about \$4000.

The pay period has been changed from twice a month to once each two weeks -- 26 paydays a year instead of 24. REA paydays come every other Tuesday, with a 10-day lag which had already been reached under the semi-monthly basis. In other words, payday for the July 1-July 14 period will be July 24, the next one, for July 16-July 28, on August 7.

The normal work-week is 40 hours -- five 8-hour days, Monday through Friday. Although this is an hour a week longer than the pre-war standard, we may not have to work Saturday morning when we get back to a regular basis.

A few Government agencies are still on a 48-hour week, but President Truman ordered most of them including REA to a 44-hour week beginning this month.

SHOW HIM THE WAY TO GO HOME

Captain Warner (Please-Pass-the-Octopus) Smith is still following in the wake of the retreating Japs, but finds souvenirs very scarce. "The Jap equipment," he explains, "is so little and well scavenged before I get to the places. I have only a helmet from a Jap with a beautiful hole fore and aft." The Captain hopes future operations will be more profitable from the souvenir-collecting standpoint.

Of his present work he says, "I have 13 sets (carrier) used to ground Jap planes. They have been doing a lot of it. I'm getting to be known as 'Modification' Smith because I'm always suggesting some for theoretical improvement. Must say some have helped materially and reflect the benefits of the design work I did while an REA'er."

He says Capt. Gustave Anderson has gone home, so now there are no others from REA that he knows of near him (1st Prov. AAA Group, FPO, San Francisco). He has a foxhole where he could sleep if conditions permitted, but find it hard to do when the ground moves around. The prodigious amount of change that occurs daily on the island bewilders him. "The tons of earth moved, the buildings erected, and the roads that magically appear make one feel like being in a different place from day to day." So many and so encompassing are these changes he confesses, "I get lost very easily as roads appear and disappear, changing their course overnight!"

HE WAS ANCHORED NEAR BY

The Navy keeps W. F. Orndoff, SK 3/c, on the move. If you don't believe it, read what he says in a recent letter from Norfolk, "After I left Navy Pier (Chicago), we picked up our ship and came down the Illinois River and the Mississippi to Mobile. From there we came back to Norfolk. Now we go to New York City and after 15 days' leave our ship will be ready. Then back to Mobile to head for the high seas."

In referring to his trip down the Mississippi he explains with regret, "We came right by St. Louis and anchored there at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and stayed until morning, but I could not get off the ship. I saw the good old Bontmen's Bank Building and wished so much I were there with the gang that I miss so much."

AFTER THREE YEARS OVERSEAS

Chief Yeoman Larry Ragan, among the first to enter service from REA, writes us a change in address and adds, "I got-back in the States on May 1, had 30 days' leave and spent most of it looking up my sisters, brother, and other relatives. Had hoped to get to St. Louis, but couldn't make it."

"Was on the West Coast for awhile and thought I was headed for the Pacific, but maybe the 36 months overseas duty is going to keep me in the States."

COLUMN WRITE!

(Cont'd)

a year. Ludlow has had only two moves during the 2½ years he's been in service. The other one took him to Patterson Field in Ohio where he served first as an efficiency expert, checking into delays holding up plane repairing and making recommendations designed to overcome such bottlenecks. For the last two months he has been full instructor in flying. The flying stop he made here was during his first leave and his first opportunity to take his family back home to Utah.

A third one to stop in awhile was LT. (j.g.) KENNETH HARDY who is stationed in Washington, D.C. He is liaison officer between the Navy Department and REA negotiating for surplus war properties for REA activities.

The Roll Call office was thrown into something like a dither when a huge backdrop flag with a large black swastika was received, a souvenir from CAPT. JOE L. THURSTON currently stationed at Salzburg, Austria. It suggests beer hall putschs, goose-stepping, iron crosses, and all the other signs of Nazification.

SEAMAN 2/c FRED E. McVEY writes to friends that after living in a trailer camp so long, it's like being in paradise to be settled in a real home again with his family. Fred is stationed at the Naval Air Training Base at Corpus Christi, Texas, where he is in communications work. Among other benefits, his stay in the Navy has netted him the knowledge of Morris code. But, like other homesick REA'ers, he is looking forward to his return here.

"SNUFFY SMITH SLEPT HERE"

Navy Lt. Lester Reynolds, who told us about Lt. Col. Fred Jordan's Award of Merit, now brings up the old REA Co-op House at Hysteresis Loop in Washington, D.C., a place fraught with memories for more than one REA trainee who once lived there.

Reynolds and Merritt Armor, who transferred early in the war to the office of the Chief Signal Officer, are the only REA'ers now at the Co-op House. "We still have the original REA sign, and run our house on a co-operative basis -- same old cook, same everything; in fact, Snuffy Smith's name is still where he once slept." After two years and ten months' duty in three war theatres, Les finds the old Co-op House good to "come home to," sharing it with Army, Marine, and Navy officers. There are 14 in the full complement, most of them Navy officers.

HERE TO THERE DEPARTMENT

2/c John K. Taylor, Wright Junior College, Chicago; Capt. Robert E. Thomson, Lawton, Okla.; W. F. Orndoff, SK 3/c, FPO, New York; Cpl. Claude W. Ritter, APO 210, New York; Cpl. Gordon F. Gray, Bakersfield, Calif.; Sgt. Samuel Saltman, APO 219, New York; Lt. Bruce O. Watkins, Degaussing Office, Navy 128, FPO, San Francisco; Capt. J. Ralph Northrop, APO 625, Miami, Florida; Warrant Officer (j.g.) Herman F. Kuchler, APO 742, New York; G. L. Ragan, C.Y., Boston, Massachusetts; Samuel Hoss, CSF (Q) (RP), New Orleans, La.

2/c John K. Taylor; Warrant Officer (j.g.) Herman F. Kuchler; Sgt. Henry C. Starns.

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

Born: To Ensign and Mrs. Herman Brettman, a girl, Ronnie June, on June 26, 1945.

